

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /005 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043484

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC: EG: (FRANKLIN, THOMAS E.)

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF AMCIT IN ADEN

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO JIDDA LONDON SANAA
MARCH 7, FROM KUWAIT REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0357

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF AMCIT IN ADEN

REF: KUWAIT 0233

1. ON FEB 6 CHARGE SAW AHMAD SAQQAF WHO HAD JUST RETURNED
FROM ADEN.

2. SAQQAF SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED FRANKLIN'S DETENTION WITH
PDRY PRIME MINISTER ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD WHO INFORMED HIM
FRANKLIN BEING HELD BECAUSE HE TOOK PHOTOGRAPHS OF SOMETHING
" MILITARY." SAQQAF'S REACTION WAS THAT THIS WAS A SIMPLE
MATTER. PDRY AUTHORITIES SHOULD DEVELOP THE FILMS AND EXAMINE
THE PICTURES. HE POINTED OUT THAT FRANKLIN WAS ONLY A TEACHER
IN A SCHOOL IN KUWAIT AND HE MAY WELL HAVE BEEN TAKING A
PICTURE OF SOME HOUSES, OR A TOURISTIC VIEW, AND INADVERTANTLY
INCLUDED SOMETHING " MILITARY" IN THE BACKGROUND. THAT DID
NOT MAKE HIM A SPY.

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3. ALI NASIR SAID, ACCORDING TO SAQQAF, THAT SINCE GOK HAD GIVEN ATTENTION TO THE MATTER, HE WOULD TAKE IT UP WITH THE " POLITICAL GUARD." HE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER PERSONALLY AND SAID HE WOULD BELIEVE THE OPINION OF KUWAIT." SAQQAF TOOK THIS PHRASE TO MEAN THAT ALI NASIR WOULD TEND TOWARD LENIENCY.

4. SAQQAF SAID THAT EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR USTADH ABASSY, DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN ADEN, HAD ALSO ASKED HIM (SAQQAF) TO RAISE SUBJECT OF FRANKLIN WITH DDRY AUTHORITIES.

5. ASKED WHAT HE EXPECTED WOULD BE NEXT ACTION, SAQQAF SAID HE EXPECTED HE WOULD HEAR NO MORE ABOUT THE CASE BUT THAT FRANKLIN WOULD SIMPLY BE RELEASED IN NEAR FUTURE. IGDS. MCCLELLAND UNQUOTE ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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